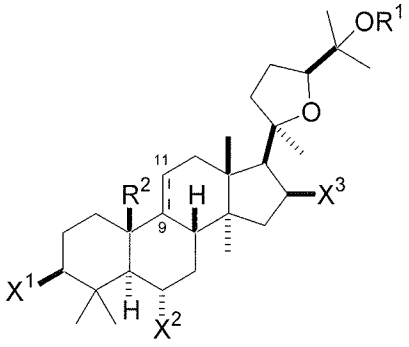
Amendments to the Claims

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended.

1. (Currently amended) A method of increasing telomerase activity in a cell or tissue, comprising:

identifying a cell or tissue in which an increase in telomerase activity is desired, and

contacting said cell or tissue with a formulation of an effective amount of an isolated compound of formula **I**:



where:

~~each of~~ X^1, ~~X^2, and X^3~~ is ~~independently selected from~~ hydroxy~~,~~ or β-D-xylopyranoside;

X^2 is hydroxy or β-D-glucopyranoside; ~~lower alkoxy, lower acyloxy, keto, and a glycoside;~~

X^3 is hydroxy or keto;

OR' is ~~selected from~~ hydroxy~~, lower alkoxy, lower acyloxy, and a glycoside~~;

~~wherein any of the hydroxyl groups on said glycoside may be substituted with a further glycoside, lower alkyl, or lower acyl, such that the compound includes a maximum of three glycosides~~; and

R^2 is methyl and ---- represents a double bond between carbons 9 and 11; or, R^2 forms, together with carbon 9, a fused cyclopropyl ring, and ---- represents a single bond between carbons 9 and 11 wherein telomerase activity is increased.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound includes zero, one, or two glycosides~~, none of which is substituted with a further glycoside~~.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said compound includes zero or two glycosides~~, none of which is substituted with a further glycoside~~.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R^2 forms, together with carbon 9, a fused cyclopropyl ring, and ---- represents a single bond between carbons 9 and 11.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein ~~each of X^1 and X^2 is independently selected from hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower acyloxy, and a glycoside, and~~ X^3 is ~~selected from~~ hydroxy, ~~lower alkoxy, lower acyloxy, keto,and a glycoside~~.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein X^1 is OH and ~~or a glycoside, each of~~ X^2 ~~and OR^1~~ is ~~independently~~ OH ~~or a glycoside, and X^3 is OH or keto~~.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the compound is selected from astragaloside IV, cycloastragenol, astragenol, astragaloside IV I6-one, cycloastragenol 6-β-D-glucopyranoside, ~~and~~ or cycloastragenol 3-β-D-xylopyranoside.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the compound is selected from astragaloside IV, cycloastragenol, astragenol, ~~nd~~ or astragaloside IV 16-one.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is astragaloside IV.

11-29. (Canceled)

30-34. (Canceled)

35-82 (Canceled)

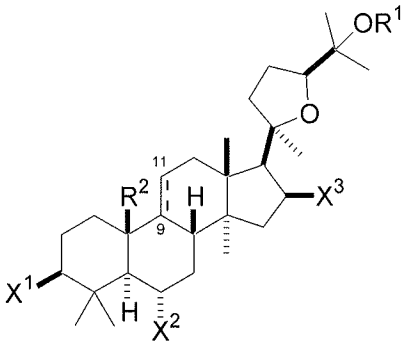
83-87. (Canceled)

88. (Previous presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the compound is cycloastragenol.

89. (Previous presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the compound is astragenol.

90. (Previous presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the compound is astragaloside IV 16-one.

91. (new) A method of increasing telomerase activity in a cell or tissue, in which an increase in telomerase activity is desired, comprising contacting said cell or tissue with a formulation comprising an effective amount of an isolated compound of formula **I**:



where:

X^1 is hydroxy~~,~~ or β-D-xylopyranoside;

X^2 is hydroxy or β-D-glucopyranoside;

X^3 is hydroxy or keto;

OR' is hydroxy; and

R^2 is methyl and ---- represents a double bond between carbons 9 and 11; or, R^2 forms, together with carbon 9, a fused cyclopropyl ring, and ---- represents a single bond between carbons 9 and 11 wherein telomerase activity is increased.

92. (new) A method of increasing telomerase activity in a cell or tissue, comprising contacting said cell or tissue with a formulation comprising an effective amount of an isolated compound selected from cycloastragenol, astragenol, astragaloside IV I6-one, cycloastragenol 6-β-D-glucopyranoside, or cycloastragenol 3-β-D-xylopyranoside wherein telomerase activity is increased.